

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02190 141505Z

46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-10

SS-20 L-03 H-03 SCI-06 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

INRE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 PRS-01 PA-04 /091 W

----- 026017

O 141428Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6155

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2190

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJ: ADDITIONAL COMMENT ON VISIT OF POET WHITTEMORE

STATE FOR EUR/SOV, EUR/SES, CU/EE USIA FOR IEE

REF: MOSCOW 2123

1. REFTEL CONTAINED EMBASSY'S REQUEST FOR ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION ON WHITTEMORE'S*VISIT. FOLLOWING IS ADDITIONAL OPINION REGISTERED BY FSIO WILLIS J. SUTTER, ASSISTANT CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER, FOR DEPT. TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION IN PREPARING REPLY. FINAL PARAGRAPH CONTAINS FURTHER COMMENTS BY EMBASSY.

2. BEGIN SUTTER COMMENT. I DISAGREE WITH POSITION TAKEN IN REFTEL AND RECOMMEND AGAINST SENDING POET REED WHITEEMORE TO SOVIET UNION AT THIS TIME. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR U.S. TO CARRY ON MORE THAN NORMAL RELATIONS WITH OFFICIAL LITERARY ORGANS OF SOVIET UNION JUST AT TIME SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS EXPELLED ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN. ALTHOUGH USG HAS RIGHTFULLY DECLARED THAT IT WILL NOT INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOVIET UNION, WE SHOULD NOT BY OUR OFFICIAL ACTIONS IMPLY THAT WE TAKE NO COGNIZANCE OF ACTIONS BY SOVIET GOVERNMENT THAT VIOLATE OUR DEEPEST HELD PRINCIPLES. POET
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 02190 141505Z

WHITTEMORE'S PRESENCE HERE NOW UNDER USG AUSPICES COULD BE CONSTRUED AS DESIRE ON OUR PART TO ACTIVELY PURSUE EXPANDED

RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION'S OFFICIAL LITERARY ESTABLISHMENT
AT TIME WHEN A SOVIET CITIZEN IS BEING HARSHLY PUNISHED FOR
HIS LITERARY ACTIVITIES.

3. I AM AS MINDFUL AS OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS OF VALUE IN
EXPANDED AND INCREASED CONTACTS WITH SOVIET LITERARY FIGURES
THAT COULD FOLLOW FROM SUCH A VISIT. BUT THESE ARE NOT ABSOLUTES
TO BE PURSUED AT ANY COST. POSTPONEMENT OF POET WHITEMORE'S
VISIT TO TIME WHEN THE CLIMATE HAS IMPROVED SOMEWHAT WOULD
DEFER BUT NOT NECESSARILY ELIMINATE THE EXPECTED BENEFITS.
ON THE OTHER HAND, HIS VISIT AT SUCH A HIGHLY CHARGED MOMENT
COULD BE FULL OF POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO SOVIET LITERARY
COMMUNITY, AND CALL INTO QUESTION--IN THEIR MINDS--THE SERIOUSNESS
WITH WHICH WE HOLD OUR IDEALS. IF THIS WERE THE RESULT,
OUR PRESENTATION OF POET WHITEMORE AS A MEMBER OF A VITAL
AND FREE INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY WOULD BE VITIATED.

4. BY QUIETLY CONCELING HIS NOMINATION AND POSTPONING IT TO
UNDETERMINED LATER TIME, I DO NOT BELIEVE THE SOVIETS WOULD BE
PROVOKED INTO RETALIATING AGAINST OTHER EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.
INDEED THEY WILL PROBABLY BE AT PAINS TO MINIMIZE AS MUCH AS
POSSIBLE THE EXPECTED ADVERSE PUBLICITY WHICH WILL RESULT
FROM THEIR EXPULSION OF SOLZHENITSYN.

5. CONSEQUENTLY, I RECOMMEND THAT WE WITHDRAW OUR NOMINATION
OF WHITEMORE TO AVOID GIVING A FALSE AND HARMFUL IMPRESSION
THAT WE INTEND TO EXPAND CULTURAL RELATIONS REGARDLESS OF
BLATANT ACTIONS WHICH VIOLATE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS TO WHICH WE
PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY SUBSCRIBE. AT THE SAME TIME, WITHDRAWAL
OF THE NOMINATION WILL NOT THREATEN FOUNDATIONS OF DETENTE OR
SERIOUSLY HARM MANY PROGRAMS CONSTRUCTED ON IT. END SUTTER COMMENT

6. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE WOULD NOT WISH TO OVEREMPHASIZE EITHER
POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE IMPACT OF VISIT BY POET. WE CONTINUE
TO BELIEVE HOWEVER THAT OUR LONG-TERM INTERESTS IN THE SOVIET
UNION ARGUE FOR NOT VOLUNTARILY JEOPARDIZING A FRAGILE PROGRAM
IN AN IDEOLOGICALLY-CHARGED FIELD SUCH AS LITERATURE WHICH
THE U.S. SIDE IS SEEKING TO DEVELOP AND WHICH IS ACCORDED LOW
PRIORITY BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES. ANOTHER CONSIDERATION NOT
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 02190 141505Z

TOUCHED UPON BY MR. SUTTER, HOWEVER, IS POSSIBLE REVERBERATION
IN THE U.S. WHICH COULD HAVE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON U.S. PUBLIC
AND CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES TOWARD PRACTICAL QUESTIONS OF
U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO TAKE LATTER
FACTOR INTO ACCOUNT. IN THIS CONTEXT, CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN
IN BRIEFING WHITEMORE, IF HE COMES, NOT REPEAT NOT TO GIVE
IMPRESSION THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT IS ATTEMPTING TO MUZZLE HIS
REMARKS IN THE USSR. IN ANY CASE, IF WE ARE NOT ABLE TO PROCEED
WITH WRITERS' UNION HERE IN NEXT DAY THIS WILL AMMOUNT TO
POSTPONEMENT, SINCE WE WOULD NOT IN THAT CASE BE ABLE TO ARRANGE

PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR WHITTEMORE. TIME REMAINING MAY ALREADY
BE TOO TIGHT. IN THAT CASE, EMBASSY, WITH SUTTER CONCURRENCE,
RECOMMENDS APRIL ALTERNATIVE.
DUBS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW02190
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740233/aaaabehi.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MOSCOW 2123
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <13 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDITIONAL COMMENT ON VISIT OF POET WHITTEMORE STATE FOR EUR/SOV, EUR/SES, CU/EE USIA FOR IEE
TAGS: OEXC, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005